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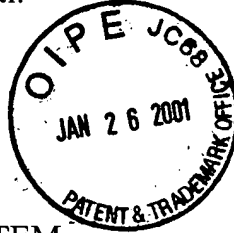
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : K. FURUSAWA et al.

Appl. No. : 09/696,178

Filed : October 26, 2000

For : ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM



Group Art Unit: 2872

Examiner: Unknown

#4 / INS
Shoyall
2/14/01

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the attention of the Examiner:

Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-130995 to OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.,
published May 28, 1993, along with a full English language translation; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,099,466, to SANO et al., issued August 8, 2000.

Copies of the U.S. Patent, and the Japanese document, along with a full English
language translation thereof, are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner and
in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Further, each of the above-mentioned documents is
listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form.

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The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each listed document and to indicate such consideration by appropriately initialing and signing the enclosed PTO-1449 Form and returning a copy of the signed and initialed form with the next communication.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
K. FURUSAWA et al.

With. E. Lyden Reg. No. 41,568
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

January 23, 2001
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191